2021 Creative Writing Exam Reading Lists

**Fiction**

Kate Bernheimer, “Fairy Tale is Form, Form is Fairy Tale,” from The Writer’s Notebook: Craft Essays from Tin House
Eudora Welty, The Eye of the Story
Susan Sontag, “On Style” from Against Interpretation
Donald Barthelme, “Not-Knowing” from Not Knowing: The Essays and Interviews of Donald Barthelme
John C. Gardner, The Art of Fiction
George Plimpton and Margaret Atwood, Women Writers at Work: The Paris Review Interviews, 3rd edition
Francine Prose, Reading Like A Writer
Jane Smiley, 13 Ways of Looking at the Novel
James Baldwin, “The Art of Fiction Interview. No 78” In Paris Review
Samuel Delany, About Writing
Raymond Carver, ed. American Short Story Masterpieces
Anthony Doerr and Heidi Pittor, Best American Short Stories 2019
Ben Marcus, ed. New American Stories

**Nonfiction/Memoir**

Adrienne Rich, “When We Dead Awaken”, in On Lies, Secrets, and Silence
Jhumpa Laniri, In Other Words
Claudia Rankine, Citizen
bell hooks, Remembered Rapture
David Foster Wallace, “Consider the Lobster”
Charles Johnson, “I Call Myself an Artist” in I Call Myself an Artist, edited by Rudolph P. Byrd
Margot Singer and Nicole Walker, eds. Bending Genre
Karen Tei Yamashita, Letters to Memory
Ta-Nehisi Coates, Between The World and Me
Roland Barthes, RB RB
Michael Downs, “Me, Myself, I: Idiosyncrasy and Structure in Nonfiction” in Triquarterly
Jesmyn Ward, Men We Reaped
Ander Monson, “The Designed Essay: Design as Essay”
Jonathan Lethem, “The Ecstasy of Influence”
Philip Lopate, editor, The Art of the Personal Essay
John D’Agata, ed. The Next American Essay
George Orwell, “Politics and the English Language”
Amy Tan, “Mother Tongue”
Dinty Moore, The Truth of the Matter
Brenda Miller and Susanne Antonetta, Tell It Slant
Joan Didion, “Why I Write”
Susan Hall, “Now and Then: The Binary Dimension of the Authorial Voice” in Numero Cinq
James Baldwin, “Letter from a Region in My Mind”
Eula Biss, “Relations”

Poetry

Robert Haas, A Little Book on Form: An Exploration into the Formal Imagination of Poetry
Arthur Poulin, ed. Contemporary American Poetry
James Longenback, The Resistance to Poetry
Paul Fussell, Aesthetics/Craft/Theory: Poetic Meter and Poetic Form
Dana Gioia, Can Poetry Matter
Richard Hugo, The Triggering Town
Melissa Kwansy, ed. Toward the Open Field: poets on the art of poetry 1800-1950
Robert Bly, A Wrong Rurning in American Poetry
James Longenbach, The Art of the Poetic Line
Denise Levertov, “Some Notes on Organic Form” and “On the Function of the Line.”
Robert Pinsky, The Situation of Poetry: Contemporary Poetry and Its Traditions